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Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 103674 TOSEC 040206

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM PA/PRESS

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT:SATURDAY MORNING TRAVELLING PRESS SUMMARY

NO. 17

NEW YORK TIMES

BERNIE GWERTZMAN FROM MOSCOW

PAGE 1 HEADLINE: ARMS PACT PROGRESS INDICATED IN MOSCOW

LEAD: "SECSTATE CYRUS R. VANCE AND FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI A. GROMYKO CONCLUDED TWO DAYS OF INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS TONIGHT WITH BOTH SIDES SUGGESTING THAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE TOWARD A NEW AGREEMENT LIMITING STRATEGIC ARMS."

OTHER POINTS:
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-- VANCE SAID ATMOSPHERE VASTLY IMPROVED OVER LAST VISIT.

-- CARTER SAID TALKS GOOD AND USEFUL. OTHER OFFICIALS, PRIVATELY, SAID VANCE'S "LIMITED EXPECTATIONS" HAD BEEN

ACHIEVED.

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-- SALT TALKS NOT IMPAIRED BY MCCLELLAN OR KOREAN AIRLINER INCIDENTS.

-- VANCE RAISED MCCLELLAN CASE AND COMPLAINED ABOUT TASS REFUSAL TO TRANSMIT PHOTOS.

-- JOURNALISTS AND OFFICIALS INVITED US REPORTERS TO THEIR INSTITUTIONS, SAYING USSR BELIEVED RELATIONS ARE IMPROVED.

-- SOLOMENTSEV SAID USSR PAYING CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO IMPROVING RELATIONS, PRAISING INCREASED CONTACTS.

-- NINE OF 11 HOURS OF NEGOTIATIONS DEVOTED TO SALT, WITH GROMYKO AND VANCE MEETING ALONE HOUR AND HALF THIS MORNING.

-- AMONG ISSUES DISCUSSED: BACKFIRE, MODERNIZATION OF EXISTING MISSILES, AND FINDING LANGUAGE TO INSURE NEW TREATY WILL NOT BE CIRCUMVENTED.

WASHINGTON POST

MURREY MARDER FROM MOSCOW

PAGE ONE HEADLINE: "US, SOVIETS SAID READY TO REPORT SALT
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PROGRESS"

LEAD: "AMERICAN AND SOVIET NEGOTIATORS ARE EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE TODAY THAT THEY HAVE SURMOUNTED SOME OF THE OBSTACLES IMPEDING A NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT, IMPROVING THE OVERALL CLIMATE FOR A NEW SALT PACT."

OTHER POINTS:

-- BREZHNEV TO JOIN TALKS AND COMMUNIQUE EXPECTED, HOPEFULLY POINTING TOWARD ANOTHER SERIES OF TALKS IN US LATE NEXT MONTH.

-- "BY DELIBERATELY SETTING MODEST GOALS FOR THE NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS HERE, WITH EMPHASIS THAT THE TONE OF THE MEETINGS IS EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN THE DETAILS, VANCE SOUGHT TO AVOID A BACKFIRE FROM UNFULFILLED EXPECTATIONS. HE HAS APPARENTLY SUCCEEDED."

-- USSR ALSO APPEARS SATISFIED WITH LIMITED ADVANCES.

-- "IN THE EARLIER PORTION OF HIS OVERSEAS MISSION, IN

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AFRICA LAST WEEK, VANCE SIMILARLY PROCLAIMED LIMITED GOALS AND THEREFORE MAINTAINED THAT HE HAD ACHIEVED SOME PROGRESS. THIS IS NOW THE EMERGING PATTERN IN ADMINISTRATION FOREIGN POLICY: MODEST CLAIMS AND MARGINAL ADVANCES."

-- NEGOTIATORS MET TWO HOURS LAST NIGHT, DISCUSSING SALT, MIDEAST, MBFR, AND SPECIAL SESSION OF UNGA.

-- DURING UNGA AND PERHAPS A GROMYKO VISIT TO WASHINGTON, IT IS HOPED TO COMPLETE POSITIONS ON SALT, LEADING TO A CARTER-BREZHNEV SUMMIT TO WRAP UP NEGOTIATIONS.

-- HODDING CARTER SAID HE DOES NOT EXPECT ALL SALT ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED DURING VISIT AND DESCRIBED KREMLIN ATTITUDE
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AS GOOD AND USEFUL.

-- AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID SOUTH KOREAN PLANE INCIDENT HAD NOT ENTERED TALKS, BUT WAS HANDLED BY CHRISTOPHER.

-- AFRICA IS BEING HELD FOR TODAY'S BREZHNEV-VANCE MEETING.

-- SPOKESMAN SAID VANCE COMPLAINED ABOUT SOVIET BLOCKAGE OF MCCLELLAN COVERAGE, AND MARDER NOTED THAT THIS WAS NOT FIRST TIME SOVIET BUREAUCRACY HAD MADE BLUNDER OF ATTRACTING ADDITONAL ATTENTION BY TRYING TO BLOCK TRANSMISSION OF COVERAGE.

NOTE: TWO AP PHOTOS OF MCCLELLAN INCIDENT ACCOMPANIED MARDER PIECE.

AP

BARRY SCHWEID FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: LEONID I. BREZHNEV JOINED ARMS NEGOTIATIONS WITH SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE TODAY BUT US OFFICIALS SAID AS THE THREE DAYS OF TALKS ENDED THAT THE SOVIET PRESIDENT'S PARTICIPATION DID NOT RESULT IN ANY MAJOR CHANGES IN MOSCOW'S POSITION."

OTHER POINTS:

-- HODDING CARTER SAID SECRETARY FELT OVERALL TONE WAS GOOD. "THERE WAS NO DISCORD OR HARSH CHARACTERIZATIONS. THERE WERE OF COURSE DISAGREEMENTS."

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-- DISAGREEMENTS WERE OVER US EFFORTS TO LIMIT DEPLOYMENT OF NEW SOVIET MISSILES AND RESTRICT BACKFIRE, AS WELL AS SOVIET EFFORTS TO BLOCK TRANSFER OF US WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY TO NATO.

-- VANCE HAD EXPECTED NO MAJOR BREAKTHROUGHS, BUT CARTER SAID THERE WAS SOME MOVEMENT IN SOME AREAS.

-- SOVIETS DESCRIBED TALKS AS "USEFUL."

POINTS FROM EARLIER STORY:

-- BREZHNEV APPEARANCE COULD SIGNAL IMPENDING KREMLIN PRONOUNCEMENT ON KEY ELEMENTS OF A TREATY.

-- BREZHNEV DECLINED TO SAY WHETHER CURRENT TALKS COULD LEAD TO SUMMIT.

-- JOINT COMMUNIQUE EXPECTED.

-- US OFFICIALS SAID SECRETARY WILL RAISE AFRICA WITH BREZHNEV, VANCE HAS DESCRIBED SOVIET-CUBAN PRESENCE ON HORN AS DESTABILIZING AND WANTS TO IMPRESS POINT ON BREZHNEV.

-- US OFFICIALS CALLED TALKS "USEFUL, GOOD AND BUSINESS-LIKE."

-- SOVIET LEADERSHIP ALSO EXPRESSED HOPES FOR SALT AGREE-MENT, QUOTING SOLOMENTSEV.

-- US OFFICIALS SAID THEY NEVER EXPECTED BREAKTHROUGH ON SALT, AND VANCE AND GROMYKO LIKELY TO CONTINUE TALKS NEXT MONTH AT UN.

REUTERS
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ROY GUTMAN FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE TODAY MET SOVIET PRESIDENT AND COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF LEONID BREZHNEV TO ROUND OFF THREE DAYS OF INTENSIVE TALKS ON A NEW AGREEMENT TO LIMIT STRATEGIC ARMS."

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OTHER POINTS:

-- BREZHNEV RECEIVED VANCE IN HIS OFFICE AND APPEARED IN GOOD HUMOR, ALTHOUGH HE REFUESED TO DISCUSS ISSUES.

-- VANCE ACCOMPANIED BY TOON AND INTERPRETER.

-- VANCE TO RAISE AFRICA, ACCORDING TO A US OFFICIAL.

-- KREMLIN HAS REJECTED ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN SALT AND OTHER CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES.

-- BREZHNEV IS LIKELY TO REITERATE SOLOMENTSEV'S VIEW THAT SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAD HELPED DEFEND LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE.

-- SALT EXPECTED TO DOMINATE VANCE-BREZHNEV MEETING.

-- SENIOR US OFFICAL QUOTED VANCE AS SAYING HE HAD FOUND MORE COMMON GROUND WITH SOVIETS THAN IN LAST VISIT, WITH ATMOSPHERE A LOT BETTER.

-- HODDING CARTER INDICATED THERE HAD BEEN SOME PROGRESS ON SOME ISSUES, BUT DID NOT EXPECT ALL ISSUES TO HAVE BEEN RESOLVED AT END OF VISIT.
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-- ATMOSPHERE SOURED BY MCCLELLAN INCIDENT. VANCE TOOK UP CASE WITH GROMYKO AND DISCUSSED SUBSEQUENT SOVIET CENSORSHIP.

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